

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Restoration Coordination Team  
Conference call 08-23-06, 3:00pm CDT

Participants:

Woody Woodrow (TPWD)  
Tom Calnan (TGLO)  
Randy Runnels (FDEP)  
Greg DuCote (LDWF)  
Bob Seyfarth (MDEQ)  
Carl Ferraro (ADCNR)  
Kristopher Benson (NOAA)  
Drew Puffer (EPA)

Dawn LaVoie (USGS)  
Columbus Brown (USFWS)  
Doug Fruge (USFWS)  
Lynn Martin (USACE)  
Chris David (NOAA)  
Quenton Dokken (GoMF, dialed in for  
discussion of October workshop)

1.) Round table reports on team members' current and upcoming activities that address action items in the plan, particularly with regard to short term goals (including formal establishment of team leadership, structure, and mission by September 1; developments associated with freshwater inflow and sediment management workshops; cataloguing of environmental compliance issues).

GD - LA has been buried in CIAP, CPR, and OCS lease sale activities and has not spent much time on Alliance activities. Considers team leadership to be established, comprised of LA as overall team lead, other four states as collaborators, fed agencies, and others (NGOs) as support. Communication from LB & KG has been minimal, and coordination with the LA state lead(s) must improve to provide effective support of RRCT activities.

CB - Overall state leads are meeting soon and will discuss this structure.

LM - GAP & Implementation Activities Matrix establish federal roles.

CB - Agreed. Feds are accountable within respective agencies for commitments shown in those documents.

JWW - States lead and feds support as described in implementation activities matrix, regardless of overall state leads communication.

RR - Communication with overall state leads must improve so that they know what restoration team is doing.

KGB - Question of structure isn't subject of dispute, so team can move ahead implementing actions.

RR - Moving ahead is fine, but still need stable framework for communications with management team.

JWW - Restoration team needs a single point of contact for each federal agency, even if that single POC needs to identify additional participants in specific subject areas or locations.

Feds:

LM is lead for USACE  
DL for USGS  
CB/DF for USFWS

AP for EPA GoMP  
KGB/CD for NOAA

RR - GAP is critical, but is mission to include Plan of Action Outline (August 2005)? GAP is low hanging fruit; will the team pursue additional items?

JWW - Doesn't make sense not to address issues in Plan of Action Outline when efficiencies can be gained addressing GAP issues as well. One thing that would help keep the team on task is more regular meetings (every two weeks?).

GD - Agreed.

AP - How's every other Tues. @ 2:00pm or every other Wed. @ 3:00pm?

JWW - Not everyone will be able to participate in every call, but team members should identify "second chairs" or alternates (TX already has two reps), who could participate in primary's absence.

RR - Wed. is better. Alternates should be copied on all team communications.

CF - Conflict with Sept. 13.

KGB - Next conference call scheduled for Sept. 12 @ 3:00pm, following for Sept. 27 @ 3:00pm.

CF - Alabama has put together a restoration implementation team, which is supportive of Alliance restoration team activities (inventory and sediment management workshops, etc.).

LM - Understood workshops to be ½ idea sharing, ½ technical issue discussion.

JWW - That understanding is correct. Workshops will be half idea sharing, half working. Also, a proposal for freshwater inflow workshop has been submitted to EPA GoMP.

GD - Environmental compliance issues catalogue will be reported in October meeting.

2.) Brief update on Gulf of Mexico Program proposal review process and how funding may impact the Action Plan.

AP - Approximately 9 or 10 submissions to RFP are related to restoration activities. Continuing resolution looming, meaning funding not available until after 1<sup>st</sup> of year 2007. Review guidelines are restrictive with regard to potential conflicts of interest, meaning that state participation is unlikely.

JWW - How do states participate in what is supposed to be a state-led initiative? Also, do the requests exceed available funding?

AP - Don't know, will find out. Overlap of proposals is also important.

JWW - States want to cooperate, not compete. They view the solicitation as being less about getting money now (\$3M isn't much in the long term), but rather about ultimately implementing the plan.

CB - USFWS grant opportunities also significant; federal assistance office staff meets annually with states, and regionally. Grant programs all apply to GAP actions.

JWW & CF - States must participate in review if they are expected to support the outcome of the review. Otherwise, implementing actions with this funding will undermine the supposed state-led nature of the Alliance. BG should go to bat for the states to participate.

RR - Will the overall state leads discuss this? They should be made aware of the concern.

AP - Can't say much more than that.

3.) Discussion of the upcoming October meeting -- come to agreement/understanding on location, dates, agenda, funding needs and potential sources. What work needs to be done (information and data gathered, technical experts invited, etc.) in preparation for that meeting?

KGB - Need to nail down details of October workshop.

GD - Baton Rouge is location, LSU campus or state facilities.

QRD - Approximately \$20K in CRP funding available, perhaps another \$5K in private funding can be provided to support the Oct. workshop. To put it in perspective, costs for the Biloxi workshop were \$31K.

KGB - Agenda consists of inventory of projects, needs assessments.

CB - What about lessons learned?

JWW - Yes. Want to know what works, what doesn't, what are challenges in other states. Are problems or opportunities internal or shared? Should focus on policy & funding issues.

CB & CF - Should cover both technical issues and policy/funding issues.

JWW - Other restoration players should be invited to learn about local issues, but not involved in working portion.

KGB - Funding available for core group of state participants.

CB & QRD - Cost of flying into NOLA much less than Baton Rouge.

GD - NOLA not feasible; all significant players in LA are in Baton Rouge.

KGB - Dates & agenda will be worked via e-mail by GD & team; additional work required in prep for meeting will be determined by the agenda. Dealing with last item on call agenda (Objective R-2) will be included in workshop agenda.

4.) Opportunities for further development of action items under objective R-2, "Increase the safety of Gulf Communities by better understanding the risks of localized sea level rise, storm surge, and subsidence." Can this be specifically incorporated into the state-led workshop agendas?

See final comment above. Please review implementation activities matrix and determine if updates to this objective are needed.

Call ended ~4:45 pm CDT.